

Remarks

With entry of the present amendment, claims 25-27, 63-71 and 73-83 are pending.

In the action mailed June 8, 2005, the Office indicates that claims 65-66 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Based on this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have rewritten claim 65 in independent form, including all limitations of the previous base claim 25 and intervening claim 64. Further, claim 66 and new claims 77-83 depend on the allowable claim 65, and therefore should also be considered directed to allowable subject matter.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for the suggested three alternatives of claim language in ¶ 3 of the Action mailed June 8, 2005. Based on this suggestion, Applicants have presented claims including the suggested alternative claim language to claims 25, 75 and 76. Further, claims 26-27, 63-64, 67-71 and 73-74 depend from claims that include the suggested language.

Claims 25-27, 30-34, 36-42, 44-48, 49-53, 58-59 and 63-64 and 67-72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Humpleman. As just noted, the independent claims 25 and 76 are amended to include language suggested by the Examiner in the action dated June 8, 2005. Applicants respectfully submit that Humpleman fails to teach or suggest this language. Accordingly, claims 25, 76 and their dependent claims 26-27, 63-64, 67-71 and 73-75 should be allowable over this art.

Applicants have canceled claims 30-34, 36-42, 44-48, 50-53 and 58-59, without prejudice, simply to expedite issuance of a patent including claims drawn to the subject matter currently agreed allowable by the Office. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a separate continuation application.

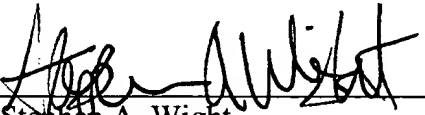
Conclusion

The application should now be in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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